

Message Text

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12

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 FEA-02 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 INT-08

DRC-01 /095 W

----- 074885

R 020557Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3792

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USAEC GERMANTOWN

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TOKYO PLEASE PASS TO JUSTIN BLOOM, SCI/AE

E.O. 1162: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, BMEP, AS

SUBJECT: URANIUM ENRICHMENT: CONNOR VISIT AND U.S. FIRMS INTEREST
IN LOCAL PLANT

REF: CANBERRA 4649

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION WITH
JUSTIN BLOOM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SCI/AE,
OF ISSUES RAISED REFTEL DURING BLOOM'S JULY 30-31 VISIT.
NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL.

2. FYI, MINISTER CONNOR'S TRAVEL PLANS STILL UNCERTAIN.
RYAN, CONNOR'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, CONFIDES IT "INCREASINGLY
UNLIKELY" MINISTER WILL TRAVEL BEFORE END OF PARLIAMENT'S
BUDGET SESSION, WHICH PROBABLY WILL NOT END UNTIL
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MID-DECEMBER. UNCERTAINTIES OVER PARLIAMENTARY SCHEDULE,

INCLUDING CONTROVERSIAL JOINT SITTING, AND ACCUMULATED
WORK-LOAD DUE TO MINISTER'S RECENT THREE-WEEK
ILLNESS, MAY PRECLUDE TRAVEL BEFORE BUDGET SESSION
BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER. THUS, TRIP MAY BE POSTPONED
UNTIL LATE DECEMBER OR JANUARY. END FYI

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY FULLY RECOGNIZES
COMPLEXITIES AND UNCERTAINTIES OF DECIDING ON ANY
TRANSFER OF ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY AND CONSEQUENT
DIFFICULTY IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS WE HAVE RAISED.
HOWEVER, WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE CONNOR'S IMPORTANCE
ON LOCAL SCENE AND CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE HE HAS ON
GOA DECISIONS IN THIS FIELD. WE BELIEVE IT IS CLEARLY
IN US INTERESTS TO EDUCATE CONNOR AS BEST WE CAN ON
QUALITY OF US TECHNOLOGIES, BOTH DIFFUSION AND CENTRIFUGE.
PROPOSED TRIP WOULD PRESENT PERHAPS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPOSE THE STRONG-WILLED MR. CONNOR TO FACTS RATHER
THAN MYTHS ABOUT US KNOW-HOW.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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